

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

RAPTORS IN THE MODERN WORLD (Proceedings of the III world conference on birds of prey and owls). Edited by B.-U. Meyburg and R. D. Chancellor, illus. by F. Weick. World Working Group on Birds of Prey, Berlin, West Germany. 1989:611 pp., 64 black-and-white drawings, 273 tables, figs. and maps. \$45.00. (Order from W. W. G. B. P., 15b Bolton Gardens, London SW5 0AL, England.)—Despite a title that indicates otherwise, this book represents the proceedings of an international conference attended by 400 participants from five continents, which was held in Eilat, Israel, in March of 1987. As is typical of works of the genre, the book is loosely edited and consists of a compilation of offerings ranging from sketchy abstracts to first-rate research papers. The work is divided into nine parts: Raptors on migration and wintering grounds (19 papers), Population biology and breeding (10 papers), Biology and conservation of rare raptors (14 papers), Biology and conservation of rare owls (10 papers), Raptors in polluted environments (11 papers), Habitat analysis and census techniques (four papers), Promotion of legislation (four papers), Education in raptor conservation (10 abstracts), and Resolutions (10 resolutions passed at the conference). Information concerning the biology and conservation of raptors on six continents is included. Although several of the reports detailing the biology and status of the many “exotic” species discussed were written by indigenous authors, English is the sole language of presentation. Several of the more lengthy papers present important information on the biology of little-known species, while others suggest new insights into the mechanisms affecting the populations of more well-studied raptors. There are a number of useful papers detailing recent conservation efforts. Senner and Brett, for example, offer a reasoned argument for the establishment of a registry of sites of international importance to raptors, and Krupa details the success of the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) “adopt-a-nest” program in which natives and logging-concession workers are paid to report and then protect occupied eagle nests. Some of the presentations, however, merely summarize already published work, and others would have been better presented in a journal. Indeed, as I read through the proceedings I kept wondering why this disparate collection had not been broken up into logical subunits and published in separate issues of *The Journal of Raptor Research*.

In sum, “Raptors in the modern world” consists of a number of useful papers, some of which when read together could provide a fair overview of the current status of raptor conservation worldwide. There are minor typographical errors throughout the work, but the titled drawings by Friedhelm Weick are exquisite, and the book has an exceptionally appealing layout for a conference proceedings. Because most of the work consists of a series of detailed journal-style papers and lacks a central theme—other than raptor biology in general—I do not recommend that anyone attempt to read the book from cover-to-cover. (I doubt the editors intended the proceedings to be used as such, as they provide no introductory or summary chapters, and no index.) Although individual papers in the proceedings will be of interest to a number of researchers in the field, given its high price, only the most devout raptorophiles will want to acquire the entire work.—KEITH L. BILDSTEIN.

NO WOMAN TENDERFOOT. By Harriet Kofalk. Texas A&M Univ. Press, College Station, Texas. 1989:225 pp., frontispiece, 44 unnumbered text photographs. \$19.95.—The subject of this biography, identified in the subtitle “Florence Merriam Bailey, Pioneer Naturalist,” was truly a remarkable ornithologist. The bibliography of her writings, included in the book, lists more than 130 articles, a major portion of which were based on her own field work in